

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 DLOS-04 /042 W

----- 124579

R 192300Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 790

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0829

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS, PP, TW

SUBJ: TAIWANESE FISHING VESSELS IN PNG

REF: A. TAIPEI 5281; B. STATE 195387

1. WE FULLY CONCUR THAT EMBASSY TAIPEI SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO BE MORE THAN POSTMAN FOR GPNG. WE HAVE REGULARLY RECEIVED WRITTEN REQUESTS FROM DFRT BUT HAVE FREQUENTLY SUMMARIZED THEM IN INTERESTS OF BREVITY OR GRAMMATICAL NICETY. HENCEFORTH WE WILL TRANSMIT VERBATIM TEXT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT WORKLOAD THIS PROBLEM HAS IMPOSED ON EMBASSY TAIPEI AND ALSO ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS. DURING AUGUST 14 MEETING COVERING VARIOUS SUBJECTS WITH CONROY, DFRT, I POINTED OUT THAT THE TAIWANESE FISHING BOATS ARE LIKELY TO BE A LONG TERM PROBLEM FOR PNG AND I THOUGHT THAT GPNG SHOULD TRY TO WORK OUT A LONG TERM ARRANGEMENT FOR DEALING WITH IT. WITH 400 OR 500 SMALL TAIWANESE FISHING VESSELS IN OR NEAR PNG WATERS, MANY OF THEM RICKETY AND PROBABLY MOST OF THEM WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COPE WITH EMERGENCIES, THE PROBLEM COULD ONLY GET WORSE. I SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO INTERESTED PARTIES GET TOGETHER TO WORK OUT A PROCEDURE AND IF MEETINGS IN EITHER CAPITAL WERE NOT FEASIBLE THEY MIGHT MEET IN A THIRD COUNTRY WHERE BOTH HAD REPRESENTATION.

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3. CONROY AGREED THAT SOME LONG TERM ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BUT SAID ONE OF REASONS GPNG HAD NOT MOVED FASTER IN DEALING DIRECTLY WITH GROG WAS CONCERN THAT SUCH DEALINGS MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS A STEP TOWARDS RECOGNITION. (THIS IS A SENSITIVE POINT HERE.) HE PICKED UP THE IDEA OF MEETING IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND SAID THEY WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING DISCUSSIONS IN JAKARTA OR SUVA WHERE THE PNG REPS COULD TALK TO THE ROC TRADE REPS. HE SAID THAT AFTER INDEPENDENCE (SEPTEMBER 16) DFRT WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER. COMMENT: IF HE FORGETS I WILL KEEP AFTER HIM.

4. ON AUGUST 19 I RAISED THE QUESTION OF A LONG TERM SOLUTION WITH THE MINISTRY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, BRUCE JEPHCOTT, WHO SAID THIS WAS A FRUSTRATING, EXASPERATING MATTER FOR THE GPNG. HE SAID THE ONLY PRACTICAL SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE GPNG TO SINK A FEW OF THE TAIWANESE BOATS AS A WARNING TO THE OTHERS. WE DOUBT THAT THE GPNG WOULD RESORT TO VIOLENCE, BUT THE REMARK INDICATES THE STRENGTH OF THE FEELING HERE.

5. CONGEN VERY MUCH APPRECIATES EMBASSY TAIPEI'S ACTIVITIES IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO GET THE MATTER MOVED INTO OTHER CHANNELS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, FISHERMEN, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1975  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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